

seniors, and that piles insurmountable debt upon our children.

Republicans have offered a more responsible, incremental approach to improve our health care system in a way that controls costs and that provides the quality of care that Americans deserve.

Despite months of town hall meetings at which millions of Americans voiced their opposition to a government takeover of health care, the majority still doesn't get it. The American people deserve more. They want more.

#### HEALTH CARE

(Mr. COURTNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, as we enter now an historic moment in our country's progress towards creating a fair, a more just, and a better economy for ourselves and for our children, I want to offer for the record a quote—a fee quote—from a business in my district with 60 employees which underlines why we need to move forward. This is one of the good guys. He employs 60 people with good wages and benefits, and for 2010, he has been told that his health insurance premiums are going up 32 percent.

We have heard for months now about how we're moving too fast and about how we've got to take our time, but the fact of the matter is that it is time to act so we can have an economy that can address creating new jobs without taking on enormous new benefit costs, which is the reality today, particularly for small businesses and for the self-employed.

If you care about growing this economy, if you care about giving the risk-takers of America the opportunity to go out and to pursue their dreams, we have got to create a stable marketplace, which H.R. 3692 will do with a national health insurance purchasing exchange.

#### HEALTH CARE

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, the Pelosi health care plan raises premiums, raises taxes, cuts Medicare, and costs over \$1 trillion. If you need more reasons to be concerned about it, there are 1,990 pages that will give you all kinds of excuses.

The good news is they're about 20 votes short. The bad news is it's time to make a deal in Washington. So, if you're a swing Democrat and if you need a road or a bridge or a new building or a Federal earmark in your district, walk down the hall, see the Speaker, put your vote on the bargaining block, and you, too, can be won over in terms of government-sponsored health care.

This is no way to run a republic. There are alternatives—targeted, market-oriented reforms that will not raise taxes and that will not cut Medicare.

#### SELF-DEFENSE IS NOT A CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY

(Mr. QUIGLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 867, which opposes the enforcement and further consideration of the Goldstone Report.

I have been to Gaza. I have seen the desolation and poverty in which the people of Gaza survive. I have also been to Israel. I have seen Sderot, which is where civilians have been hammered relentlessly by rockets from Gaza. I have seen the fortified recreation center there, complete with bomb shelters—the only place children feel safe to play.

This decades-old battle is complex, and it deserves to be examined, but what we cannot do is turn the victims into the perpetrators. We cannot forget history. For 8 years, Hamas has continuously fired thousands of rockets at innocent Israeli civilians. Israel finally struck back, defending itself against an opportunistic enemy.

I am grateful to Chairman BERMAN for his leadership on this issue.

Note: Self-defense is not a crime against humanity, and we must not let a deeply flawed report destroy progress made in the peace process.

#### H.R. 2607—THE SMALL BUSINESS HEALTH FAIRNESS BILL

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this week, the House is going to vote on the Democrats' latest plan for Pelosi's government-run health insurance. The bill is 2,000 pages long, weighs 20 pounds, and costs more than \$1 trillion. With over 400,000 words in it, that comes out to \$2.5 million a word. The bill creates 111 new bureaucracies which will decide what kind of government-approved health care is best for your family and you.

Speaker PELOSI wants America to believe this is the only way to reform health care, but I know there is a better solution. That's why I introduced the Small Business Health Fairness bill. My bill, H.R. 2607, allows small businesses to band together to purchase health insurance so they can enjoy the same bargaining power that large corporations and labor unions have at the purchasing table.

We know that buying in bulk reduces the price tag, and health care is no different. Government-forced health care is not the way to solve the problem.

#### HEALTH CARE

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, in our efforts to reform our Nation's health care system, it seems like a lot of different solutions have arisen, and now we know what the insurance companies' solution is. It's the 32 percent solution.

You heard my colleague Mr. COURTNEY talk about one of his constituents. I'd like to read you a little bit of a letter from one of mine—a letter from Gregg Wagner, a Realtor in Louisville:

"Today, I received my annual premium increase. My new premium with Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield increased 32 percent. I have an individual policy with a \$2,500 deductible. It is interesting to note that Anthem did not spend one penny on me in the last year. Nothing. This has followed 15-25 percent increases in the last 8 years. This is one of the reasons that 30 percent of Realtors in the United States do not have health insurance."

Mr. Wagner, the Realtors are not alone. Millions of Americans face this unsustainable health insurance system where, if they can get coverage, it's pricing itself beyond their reach. We need change. We need competition and choice. That's what the Affordable Health Care for America Act does.

#### HEALTH CARE

(Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, if you were to write a reform of the health care system for America, you wouldn't have the Pelosi bill. If you were to write the health care bill for liberal San Francisco, you'd have the Pelosi bill.

Why?

It would cost too much. It would tax too much. It would be heavy on government. It would be wild on bureaucracy. It would contain 3,425 separate uses of the word "mandate." 3,425 times the government is going to tell you what to do. 3,425 times we're giving power to the Federal Government to get between you and your government.

In America, it makes no sense. It may make sense in liberal San Francisco, but in my district, it doesn't. For the rest of the United States, it doesn't. Let's save America from this fate. Let's save the American system.

#### HEALTH REFORM

(Mr. LANGEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, as this House, this Congress, takes up the debate during this historic opportunity

to address and to fix our Nation's health care crisis by passing universal health care, I'd like to take a minute to talk about a family from Rhode Island.

Barbara, from Cranston, is a devoted mother of two remarkable boys, one of whom has hemophilia. A 3-month supply of his life-sustaining medication costs \$60,000, never mind the costs of doctor visits or of hospitalizations. She came to my office to advocate for her son, casting little attention to her own condition—multiple sclerosis. Despite her challenges, she knows she is one of the lucky ones because she has insurance coverage, but without health care reform, she is forever held hostage by insurance companies' annual and lifetime caps and by barriers on pre-existing conditions.

There are countless families like Barbara's who are struggling to afford to keep the coverage that they have or who are struggling to afford to get coverage in the first place.

It is time to pass health insurance reform. The bill before us is fundamentally going to change the system in America from health care's being a privilege for only those who can afford it to its being a right for everyone. We need to act now.

#### HEALTH CARE

(Mr. CARTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, as we debate this great debate, with regard to one thing, we're not keeping our eye on the ball. This is about people.

In 1965, I was in northern Europe, working for a group that was laying a pipeline across northern Europe. I got my nose broken and I got sent to the doctor. They had government-run, Pelosi-style health care. I stood in line for 2½ hours to reach the doctor. I went into a nurse's room and told her my name. She passed it through another window to a doctor. I walked in the doctor's office.

He said, What's wrong with you?

I said, I think my nose is broken.

He grabbed it and wiggled it. It started to bleed. He said, It's broken. Go through that door.

I walked through that door. They handed me a prescription, and I walked out. Everybody who stood in line for 2½ hours got the same style of health care.

Americans want relationships with their doctors—with their doctors. That's not the health care Americans want, but that's the Pelosi health care plan, and that's the future of health care in America if we go forward with this government-run, Pelosi-style health care. This is something Americans should stand up against.

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#### HEALTH CARE

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, it's hard to reform health care. You have got to take on some of those powerful special interests in America. Perhaps that's why it's been 139 days since the Republican leadership announced they would have an alternative, but they don't have one yet.

Perhaps it's because at the heart of this is the insurance industry. Most people don't know, but the Republicans do know very well.

The health insurance industry is exempt from antitrust law. They do not have to play by the same rules as any other American business. They can and do collude to jack up rates. They can and do collude to divide markets and exclude competition.

They can do anything they want, and it's legal. They are outside the antitrust law of the United States of America. The Democratic bill will repeal this unfair antitrust exemption, bring real competition to this industry for the first time since the 1940s. The Republicans don't want to touch that with a 100-foot pole or maybe a \$10,000 contribution.

#### IMPACT ON PHYSICIAN-OWNED HOSPITALS

(Mr. OLSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3962, the Pelosi health care bill, would have a significant impact on the Texas economy and existing physician-owned hospitals and the quality of health care in my home State of Texas.

Texas leads the Nation with 50 physician-owned hospitals. But under this bill, these hospitals will be prohibited from adding beds or otherwise increasing capacity. Medicare payments to any new doctor-owned hospitals would be prohibited.

According to a January 2009 study by Health Economics' Study Group, physician-owned hospitals employ over 22,000 Texans and have a net economic impact of \$2.3 billion on the Texas economy. The Pelosi health care bill will have a significant impact on the economy and, more importantly, the quality of care that these hospitals provide our communities.

It's wrong to pay for government health care by punishing these providers.

#### HEALTH CARE

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, 90 percent of the children of America, at some point in their life-

time, certain populations of the children will be on food stamps.

I am very proud of Speaker PELOSI. This is not Pelosi health care; this is America's health care. This is the input of Americans from all around the Nation. Ninety-six percent of Americans will be covered by this health care, and no woman will be denied insurance because of a preexisting condition such as pregnancy.

What an outrage. I have been working on the physician-owned hospitals issue now for almost 4 years. We are engaged in providing opportunities for physician-owned hospitals to expand, to be able to provide services for general acute care services in this bill.

I know we are going to be victorious. I know that the hospitals need to be covered. I know that we are not going to lose jobs.

This is a bill that serves all of America. I am glad that my colleague had the opportunity to be in European-style health care. That is not what it is, but it is going to allow people in America to live, and not the 18,000 that die every year because they do not have health insurance.

Pass health reform now.

#### HEALTH CARE

(Mr. CANTOR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak about the majority's move to overhaul our health care system this week.

From what I can see, Mr. Speaker, the version of health care reform that this majority is bringing forward is a horrible, horrible step. The bill is something unseen before; it's a trillion-dollar attempt to overhaul the system we know with one that we don't.

Mr. Speaker, the Republicans will stand united against this bill. Mr. Speaker, we will do so because, one, the American people have spoken out, and they see that this is an extreme attempt to try to address what's really wrong with our system, and it doesn't match what the mainstream common-sense American wants.

Number two, Mr. Speaker, contrary to the suggestions on the other side, we do have a better way. We will be offering our Republican plan. That plan will reduce health care costs. It is well documented. The majority is unconcerned about reducing costs for the people who have insurance in this country.

#### HEALTH CARE

(Mr. RADANOVICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, The Wall Street Journal ran an editorial on the Speaker's health care bill entitled "The Worst Bill Ever," an understatement, to say the least.

To quote The Wall Street Journal: "Mrs. Pelosi's handiwork ranks with